
From: Garwin Yip - NOAA Federal <garwin.yip@noaa.gov>
Sent: Monday, August 6, 2018 12:23 PM
To: Howard Brown
Subject: WH inquiry on ROC on LTO

On August 2, 2016, Reclamation requested reinitiation of consultation on the long-term operations of the Central Valley Project (CVP) and State Water Project (SWP, ROC on LTO).

Reclamation established a core team (largely comprised of first line supervisors and senior technical staff) of representatives from Reclamation, California Department of Water Resources, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS), California Department of Fish and Wildlife, and NOAA Fisheries that has met on a biweekly to monthly frequency since February 2017 to work through management issues associated with the ROC on LTO.

In approximately December 2017, the Department of the Interior decided to separate the ROC on LTO into 3 separate but concurrent efforts:

-- Reclamation proposed a set of interim actions that were intended to increase water supply, but at the same time, have little controversy, and as a result, the expected deadline to complete NEPA and ESA compliance is by the end of calendar year 2018. A very rough draft environmental assessment was distributed to the agencies and stakeholders for comment in June. All of the fish agencies had substantive and substantial comments on most, if not all, of the interim actions. The actions have been elevated to the Directors for resolution.

-- Reclamation proposed a programmatic action intended to increase water supply and power generation. There has been mention that this "phase" will be included in the next phase.

-- Re-operation: Reclamation is pursuing this phase as a fresh look, that is, no preconceived idea of how to operate the CVP and SWP, but rather to convene a series of meetings to ask stakeholders to assist in the development of the proposed action that would meet all objectives. The most recent deadline that we're aware of is August 2020 to issue biological opinions. Objectives continue to be a single joint, non-jeopardy biological opinion issued by the USFWS and NOAA Fisheries.

NOAA Fisheries has been engaged throughout all of the meetings and efforts towards the 3 concurrent processes of the ROC on LTO.

-Garwin-

Garwin Yip
Water Operations and Delta Consultations Branch Chief
NOAA Fisheries West Coast Region
U.S. Department of Commerce
California Central Valley Office
650 Capitol Mall, Suite 5-100
Sacramento, CA 95814
Office: 916-930-3611
Cell: 916-716-6558
FAX: 916-930-3629
www.westcoast.fisheries.noaa.gov

